BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM – GREAT AMERICAN DINE OUT GRANT

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the submission of an application, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, for the Great American Dine Out Grant for $10,000 to promote the Summer Lunch Program, subject to approval of the Mayor and City Council;

2. Direct Staff to transmit the grant application to the Mayor and City Council, requesting approval; and,

3. Authorize the General Manager to represent the City and execute the corresponding grant agreement, and any subsequent amendments thereto, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 14.6 et seq. as may be amended, on behalf of the City, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SUMMARY:

Great American Dine Out Grants help support programs and projects that help connect children who are at risk of hunger, with nutritious food where they live, learn and play. During one week in September 2008, thousands of participating restaurants all across the country donated a percentage of their sales to support Share Our Strength’s work to end childhood hunger and to make sure no child in America grows up hungry. Share Our Strength hopes to make this a yearly
event. The Great American Dine Out grants are available to organizations that propose programs that will accomplish the following:

- Increase access to public and private programs that provide food to children and their families
- Strengthen community resources that connect children to these programs
- Educate families about nutrition
- Improve families’ knowledge about food and nutrition programs and facilitates their access to related programs and services, especially in vulnerable or underserved communities

The Department’s “Summer Lunch Program” provides free nutritious lunches to youth ages 1 through 18 at recreation centers citywide, as well as an afternoon snack. The goal of the program is to ensure that children receive at least one nutritious and balanced meal per day when school is not in session. The Summer Lunch Program is offered during two separate program periods: during the summer months at 108 sites citywide, to accommodate those children who are attending schools with traditional calendars; and during the off-track period at 37 sites, to accommodate children who attend year-round schools on “tracks.”

This grant would provide the additional funds to publicize the Summer Lunch Program and to increase participation by reaching a larger number of children across the City. With these additional funds, the program will produce a nutrition newsletter to be distributed to the community to promote participation and healthy living.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

This grant does not require a match and would provide funds to increase youth participation in the Summer Lunch Program. By increasing participation, the Department will be extending its reach to children in need and would receive increased reimbursement from the State, which would be used to provide additional resources for staffing and the administrative costs of the program.

This report was prepared by Alexa Esparza, Senior Management Analyst, West Region.